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## Editorial Notes.

### The Peace Congress.

The Commission of the International Peace Bureau has decided to hold the Universal Peace Congress this year at Rouen, France. It was expected that the Congress would go to The Hague, but the Netherlands Peace Society withdrew its invitation to the Congress for this year, on account of Mr. Carnegie's gift to the Hague Court for the building of a Temple of Peace. The Society prefers to wait till this temple is erected, and then have the Congress come to The Hague and meet in it. Rouen is in the north of France and will be a most accessible place for the Congress, and as for entertainment, nobody can surpass our French friends in generosity and care. The program of the Congress will not differ materially from that of the previous meetings. It will include a report from the Standing Committee of the Bureau on the events of the year, the present situation as to arbitration treaties between the nations, a report of the Standing Committee on questions liable to provoke international conflicts, a report of the Special Commission appointed to study the economic causes of war, a discussion of the subject of a truce of armaments, international law, definition of the right of legitimate self-defense, method of effective propaganda, etc. The Congress will be held the third week in September, though the local committee of organization at Rouen has not yet been able to fix the exact day of opening.

### A European Importation.

Stephen S. Wise of Portland, Oregon, a distinguished Jewish Rabbi of the Northwest, delivered, on the evening of June 5th, a powerful protest against the present tendency to militarism in the United States. We quote a few of his many terse and forceful sentences: "This militarism, a strictly European importation, should be barred out at the gates of our land." "War," he said, "is not to be prepared for and regarded as if it were a regular and ordinary thing amid the events of life." "Among the less harmful symptoms of the rise of the spirit of militarism is the growing practice of sending our youth to military schools. A graver symptom is the wanton extravagance into which we are rushing headlong for the upbuilding of the American navy." "The United States navy twenty years ago cost \$15,000,000 per annum; ten years ago, \$23,000,000; in 1895, \$25,000,000; and the current year's expense is calculated to be about \$80,000,000. A student of naval affairs estimates that within a very few years the annual expense of supporting our naval establishment will be \$150,000,000, or nearly \$500,000 daily." "The annual expense account of Tuskegee Institute, one of the greatest civilizing agencies of the

Western Continent, is \$100,000." "If we plan to build five ships or cruisers in one year, Russia at once sets out to build six, and Germany possibly seven, France perhaps eight or nine, and England ten or twelve; whereupon our government sets out to readjust the naval program." "If a guarantee against defeat by any combination of powers is to be secured, when, if ever, shall the naval building program come to an end?" "The 'nationalism' that leads to militarism is nothing more than a wholesale, collective national neglect of the law, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,' or its paraphrase as voiced in Christendom under the title, 'The Golden Rule.'" "Theft does not cease to be theft because it is styled territorial aggrandizement, and murder does not cease to be murder because its victims are multitudinous in number." "The suppression of individuality, which is the natural concomitant of militarism, cannot long coexist with a truly democratic ideal." "It seems that to-day already there is danger of looking upon our army as a class apart; to criticise an army officer is looked upon as treasonable; to demand that the officers of the army shall in any event obey the laws of war and the laws of humanity is to be disloyal to our country's defenders." "Militarism is the bane and blight of Europe because it perverts ideals." We are glad to see this noble protest on the Pacific Coast, where so many citizens are being thoughtlessly carried away into support of policies out of which can come only evil to the nation and to civilization.

### The Church in Servia.

The degradation of the Church under the pressure of political influences and false national standards was never more humiliatingly illustrated than at the time of the recent Servian tragedy. After the assassination of King Alexander and the election of Peter Karageorgevich a great thanksgiving service was held in the Cathedral. A *Te Deum* was sung. The aged Metropolitan of the city, surrounded by the bishops of the Cathedral chapter, officiated at the *Te Deum*, and read a short address in which he congratulated the nation on the restoration of the Karageorgevich dynasty. He then went on to express his regrets that such a thing had become necessary, but thanked the army for what it had done, that is, for the ghastly midnight murder of the royal family and others. After this monstrous deliverance the aged man ought to have marched with his attendants out of the Cathedral, locked it fast, flung the key into a ditch, thrown off his gorgeous robes and declared, "The kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ has become the kingdom of this world with all its selfishness and brutality; henceforth there is no excuse for the name of Christianity, which I now throw off forever." When the Church ceases to declare the great moral and spiritual

principles which ought at all times of trial and peril, as well as of security and assurance, to guide the life of individuals and of peoples, there is no more use for it. And a church or a minister who loses faith in the conquering power of Christian principles and begins weakly and apologetically to compromise with social or national sins, in Servia, England, America or anywhere else, is far on the road toward uselessness and something worse. "Civilization" by murder, of individuals or of peoples, is a monstrous business for the ministers of the "meek and lowly" Jesus to be profit-sharing in.

#### German Elections.

What the masses of the German people are thinking about the militarism which the Kaiser and "his friends" are determined shall be developed to the last extremity, at whatever cost of treasure and flesh, is clearly revealed by the recent elections to the national parliament. The Socialists have increased their representation in the parliament by fifteen seats, and their total vote was over two millions and a half. At Essen, the home of the late Herr Krupp, the great ironmaster and gunmaker, the Socialists had their greatest success, increasing their vote five-fold. Many of the people have gone over and joined the Socialist party, which now numbers more than one-third of all the voters of the Empire, not because they approve of some of the more violent parts of the program of the extreme Socialists, but as the only simple and clear way of recording their determined opposition to the militarism of the government with its taxation schemes. It is probable that in the second elections, which must be held in all the districts where no candidates received a majority, the Socialists will considerably increase their number of seats. It is perfectly clear from this Socialist development that a crisis is approaching in German political affairs. What form it will take is not now clear. The conflict will be over militarism. That has become the one mastering issue. By the time the next parliamentary election comes round the time will probably be ripe for the decision. If the parliamentary institutions continue, the present militarism will ultimately be voted out of the empire. And as to an imperial *coup* by which parliamentary government will be suppressed, the German people would never tolerate that.

Since the above was written the second elections have taken place and the hopes of the Socialists have been fully realized. They have increased their representation until they now have eighty-one seats in the Reichstag. If the election laws were not so unjust as to require about double the number of Socialist votes to elect a member as of other parties, they would have nearly one-half of the whole number of seats.

#### To Christian Principles.

In his Introduction to "Channing's Discourses on War," just published by Mr. Ginn in the peace series which he is issuing, Edwin D. Mead speaks as follows of the power in the hands of the Church to abolish war, if it were only faithfully and fully used. The same thought has often been expressed before, but it needs, alas! incessant repeating, even though an increasing portion of the Church and the ministry is, we feel sure, showing itself true to the principles of the Prince of Peace:

"With a common high resolve on their part to be true to the principles of the Church's great Founder, the Prince of Peace, war and the military system could not endure for a decade as a regular feature in the life of the commonwealth of nations. There is nothing so melancholy, nothing so discouraging to the worker for the peace and order of the world, as the easy readiness of multitudes of Christian churches and ministers to follow the multitude to do evil; to abdicate their ideals and high functions when their nation is once embarked or once bent on unjust war, and turn with the crowd from the harp and organ to the drum and fife. The hard, severe and unpopular but ennobling and commanding duties of moral leadership are forgotten, and the selfish motives and passions of the people are condoned and whitewashed, and 'mid prayer and song the worse is made to seem the better reason. No other single thing could do more for the promotion of the cause of peace and international reason, in its conflicts with the hoary methods of violence and war, than the conversion of the Christian Church to Christian principles; and nothing, surely, can help more efficiently to this end than the contemplation and careful study of one who in the pulpit from the beginning to the end of life applied these principles heroically and luminously to this great issue, as the exigencies of national life from time to time commanded."

The following from one of our exchanges, *Lynching. Unity*, is written so well that we will not attempt to restate it in our own words:

"Last week a horrible case of lynching occurred at Belleville, in the southern part of the State of Illinois. A negro school teacher in the heat of passion shot a superintendent who had withheld from him a certificate, the shot proving fatal; whereupon the populace outdid in violence and lawlessness the deeds of the homicide by a brutal lynching. This violence was not a case of black and white; it was a revelation of the brutality that lurks in human nature of all colors. One violence does not justify another. So long as lawlessness is matched by greater lawlessness, the lower elements of society, black or white, will manifest themselves in these horrible ways. Fiendishness on the one hand does not justify wolfishness on the other. This is a vindication of Mrs. Browning's insight:

'There's not a crime that's rung upon the counters of this world  
But takes its proper change out still in crime.  
Let sinners look to it.'

Well does the *Record-Herald* of Chicago say in its editorial comment: 'The people who joined in this lynching had filled themselves with sophistries. But only an interested partisan can fail to see that they are guilty of the crime which they undertook to punish. This man shot the superintendent because he had lost all respect for law in his ungovernable fit of anger. It was a deed proper only to a savage, but the citizens emulated this savagery.' Well did Charles G. Ames of Boston say at the recent Unitarian anniversary, 'Who are we of the United States to rebuke Russia for its barbarities to the Jews while our own hands are so red with murder at home and in the far-off islands of the sea?'"

The Baroness  
Von Suttner.

The sixtieth birthday of the Baroness Von Suttner, which occurred on the ninth of June, was made the occasion, by her numberless peace friends throughout Europe, of conveying to her an expression of the high honor and love in which she is universally held. This tribute was not one of words only, but also "something substantial." It was only about a dozen years ago that the Baroness and her husband, since deceased, became known in an international way. Before that time she had won distinction in her own country by her literary work, in which was already strongly manifested the high humanitarian spirit which has since characterized her larger labors. Since her advocacy of the cause of peace began, her rise has been most remarkable. It is no exaggeration to say that she is now the best known and most honored woman in Europe — and we do not think there is another who is more useful. Her great historical story against war, *Die Waffen Nieder* (Lay Down Your Arms), which has passed through some thirty editions in German and has been translated into most of the leading modern languages, has had a wide and powerful effect in Europe in awakening opposition to the dominant militarism of the time. The Baroness is a woman of queenly stature and bearing, of independence and courage of mind, and of fine womanly modesty and dignity. We join most heartily with all her friends in the tribute of affection and honor given her, and in wishing for the cause which she has so bravely espoused and advocated many years more of her intelligent and wise service.

The Stated  
Congress.

In regard to the Stated International Congress, the resolution in favor of which from the Massachusetts Legislature, is to be presented to the coming Congress, one of the United States Consul-Generals in Asia writes:

"Your memorial received last mail, and I hasten to testify my approval.

"Ours is a history-making epoch, and during this century either war must cease among so-called Christian nations or else Christianity as a religion will rightly

perish. Thoughtful men will have reason to abandon a religion which after two thousand years of propagation of 'Peace on earth and goodwill to men' finds all the leading nations more devoted to armies and battleships than to the arts of peace.

"May success attend your efforts.

"Sincerely,

"U. S. Consul-General."

## Brevities.

. . . Replying to the resolutions passed by the American Peace Society at its recent annual meeting in regard to Mr. Carnegie's generous gift to the Hague Court, his private secretary, Mr. J. Bertram, writes: "Mr. Carnegie tenders his thanks to the American Peace Society for the resolutions which you send. Mr. Carnegie says that all other questions are trifling compared with the abolition of men killing each other as a mode of settling international disputes."

. . . The death is announced in the dispatches from London of Sir Joseph W. Pease, president for many years of the Peace Society. He had been in parliament for over a generation and had thrown the weight of his influence steadily and strongly against the extension of militarism in England. In religion he was a Friend, and in a quieter way stood for the same moral principles which made John Bright so famous and so useful. Sir Joseph was of the distinguished Pease family of Darlington, which is always associated with the building of the first railway. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the English Peace Society on the loss of its distinguished head.

. . . At the recent Michigan State Convention of the W. C. T. U. held at Adrian, Miss Cornelia Moots, who had returned from missionary work in the Philippine Islands, after detailing the corruptions attending the American army occupation, said, " 'War is hell,' and military life is the ante-room to it."

. . . We regret very sincerely to have to record the death of Ida Whipple Benham of Mystic, Conn. The cause of peace had no truer and more faithful friend than she. Wherever she went both her conscious and her unconscious influence were strong in the promotion of right feelings and right relations between individuals and peoples. Her poetry, of which the readers of the *Advocate of Peace* have had many samples, was always of a high order of thought and frequently of extraordinary delicacy and beauty. She spent her time and employed her talents always in promoting the good of mankind. And that is her monument, which can never perish.

. . . Justin McCarthy's new book, "British Political Portraits," recently published by the Outlook Company, New York, will be found interesting and instructive in connection with the agitation in England caused by Mr. Chamberlain's new taxation scheme.

. . . The British navy burns up ten millions of dollars worth of coal in a year. And what is there to show for it when it is gone, but more ships to burn more coal!